



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

KT-haw's this look to you?

DEC 8 1997

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Request for Technical and Policy Assistance for Perchlorate Contamination in Water in Region 9

FROM: Timothy Fields, Jr. *Tim Fields*
Acting Assistant Administrator

TO: Felicia Marcus
Regional Administrator
Region 9

DATE	12-15-97	
ACTION (Y)	COPIED (Y)	
RA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RA
DRA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DRA
AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR
OCGR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCGR
ORC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORC
OSPEI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OSPEI
PMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PMD
\$FUND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$FUND
WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WASTE
WATER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WATER
X-MEDIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X-MEDIA

Thank you for your memorandum of September 23, 1997, requesting technical and policy assistance for perchlorate contamination of water in Region 9. It is my understanding that the Office of Water and Office of Research and Development will be responding under separate cover.

You asked for assistance in five (5) areas. Generally, we believe the actions you outlined should be undertaken and have described the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's (OSWER's) role in each area below.

1) Identification of Potential Sources: Since perchlorate has been discovered in a number of locations in California, Nevada, and now in Utah, and since studies are now underway to gather additional information about its toxicity, I agree EPA should begin to identify additional potential sources. I understand that Bob Perciasepe will be sending a letter to both the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration requesting information on facilities that manufactured and used perchlorate. We look forward to hearing the results of these efforts.

2) Health Effects and Toxicology: OSWER is currently providing support in this area. We have provided comments on the Air Force's 90-day rat study protocol and requested that other Agency personnel review the developmental neurotoxicological study. The Air Force is now considering additional studies, and we intend to review or request Agency review of those as well. Currently, we are working with the Air Force to develop a mechanism for "peer review" of the completed studies. OSWER is not currently considering studies of our own, since we believe

that studies should be funded by DOD or PRPs with appropriate oversight by EPA. We will assess the need for additional studies, requiring funding either by other agencies or OSWER, once the studies currently planned are completed. Finally, OSWER is in the process of negotiating its research priorities with the Office of Research and Development (ORD) for FY 1999 and has included perchlorate as an additional priority.

3) Treatment Technologies: As noted above, OSWER is in the process of negotiating its research priorities with ORD for FY99 and the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) requesting assistance for technical expertise related to treatment technologies for perchlorates. We hope ORD responds favorably to this request and look forward to their assistance.

4) Analytical Protocol Development: I agree you should continue work on the analytical protocol for detection of low levels of perchlorate with NERL in Las Vegas. Once that work is completed, OSWER will work with you to determine what the next steps should be.

5) Public Involvement: I have asked OERR's Community Involvement and Outreach Center to become familiar with the issues related to perchlorate and on-going as well as planned activities to date. I suggest Region 9's community involvement personnel consider placing this issue on the agenda for next summer's EPA Community Involvement Conference to further general awareness.

As the scope of the perchlorate problem becomes clearer, the need for a national policy may emerge. Until then, OSWER will work with you in these areas. If you require additional assistance, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Karen Bankert of OERR at (703) 603-9046.

cc: Fred Hansen
Henry Longest, ORD
Bob Perciasepe, OW
Stephen Luftig, OERR
Jim Woolford, FFRRO
Suzanne Wells, CIOC/OERR

United States Environmental Protection Agency
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~~Keith Takata~~ IL

Kevin Mayer

Kevin -

see Felicia's question...
Are you OK with
Tim's response?

Kc

Felicia Marcus
Regional Administrator



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